

Executive Summary

2017 Annual OIB Report, 7-OB

The federal government's Title VII Chapter 2 describes the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program. The federal government, through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), provides grants to support services for individuals age 55 or older whose severe visual impairment makes competitive employment difficult to obtain but for whom independent living goals are feasible. The OIB funds independent living skills training services, conducts activities that will improve or expand services, and conducts activities to improve public understanding of the problems facing older severely visually impaired persons.

The 7-OB report is the federally required annual summary that the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) sends to the RSA on or before December 30. It includes the funding expenditures, data about the staffing of the service provider agencies, the numbers and statistics concerning the consumers served, the quantities and types of services provided, and some first-hand narratives from many of the service providers. The data for this report is compiled from the monthly and quarterly reports sent to the DOR OIB Unit from the service providers.

Some key facts and highlights of this report are as follows:

- OIB funded approximately \$2.94 million in grant expenditures, with 76% spent on direct consumer services.
- California had 21 service providers in 2017 deliver services to 5,849 consumers.
- The number of consumers served decreased by 888 for 2017, over prior year's report, due to the closure of two service providers in 2016 and 2017, and one service provider discontinuing OIB grant services.
- The service providers deliver services to OIB consumers in all counties, with the exception of Inyo County.
- Of the 5,849 consumers served, 37.7% were minorities (non-white).
- The number of female consumers served is almost double the number of male consumers, 66% and 34% respectively.
- The service providers reported participating in 760 community awareness events, providing outreach to 27,836 individuals.
- Approximately 17,186 unduplicated core services were given to the 5,849 consumers for an average of about 2.94 core services per consumer.
- OIB service providers delivered services to 44 consumers over the age of 100; an increase of 18, up from 26 consumers in 2016.
- Of those surveyed, at least 94% of the consumers reported functional gains in the 4 core service areas of; assistive technology, orientation and mobility, communications skills, and daily living skills.